

*Government Orders*

Canadians need to have that transparency. They want to know when the Minister of Finance is making decisions of that type that he is making the right decisions. Bill C-13 has not got the ability to be able to call an environmental assessment on those projects. Yet it is federal money. There is a federal role. Bill C-13 says that we should be talking about federal areas of jurisdiction, federal responsibilities. Those are two major examples on the international environment front that will not be reviewed, will not be assessed.

There is also the other deficiency in this. It is something that we are going to have to work on further. This is like capital projects kind of thinking, that that is what will be reviewed or assessed.

The policies of this government are not up for review or assessment and we have got before us now the possibility of a North American free trade agreement. What will be the environmental consequences of that agreement? Will we be able to assess it? Not under this legislation. What about the GST? Would such a major policy of the government be assessed? Not under this legislation.

Ask me what kind of environmental effects that would have. When you think about global warming, you think about the kind of petrochemical products that are put into the atmosphere that cause global warming. Why are cars taxed with the GST? Obviously that is a sensible move, if you believe in the GST. But why are bikes not exempt? Bicycles are an alternative transportation but they are taxed just the same as cars.

There is no environmental sensitivity to that kind of policy. The GST and the North American free trade agreement are two policies that I am putting forward as examples that this government is introducing or has introduced that will have enormous environmental consequences. Yet we have no ability to review them. There is no environmental assessment. There is no understanding that sustainable development begins here and that we need to have a process of assessing the sustainability if we really do believe that the world's environment is worthy of assessment, not just the Canadian environment. Of course we are concerned about that, but it extends.

I want to conclude my remarks by saying let us put this in context. We are going to have the Earth Summit in Brazil in June. Canada has an opportunity in the days leading up to the Earth Summit to create the best environmental legislation in the world. I have reviewed environmental assessment legislation in other jurisdictions. There are many similarities to this. There are many differences.

Bill C-13 does not cut it. It is not good enough. It has come a long way. I once again compliment the members of the committee in the major amendments, the major changes to the legislation, but it is not good enough.

• (1810 )

This planet is dying, and we have to find a way to stop it. We have to find a way. We have to put the legislation, the bill, the regulations to ensure the dying planet at least slows down that death. This bill does not do it.

I am sorry to say that I cannot support this bill.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil):** Mr. Speaker, I would be interested in hearing what the hon. member who just spoke had to say about the position taken by the Government of Quebec. Early this afternoon, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Parizeau, said this was one of the most serious attempts at economic centralization, using the environment as an excuse, that we had seen so far.

In the Quebec National Assembly, the following was said: Bill C-13, an Act to establish a federal environmental assessment process, constitutes an unacceptable encroachment on Quebec's areas of jurisdiction. Bill C-13, an act to establish a federal environmental assessment process, will introduce an assessment process that will be unworkable. Furthermore, Bill C-13, an act to establish a federal environmental assessment process, will lead to costly administrative duplication and court challenges. Furthermore, the federal government will be able to proceed unilaterally, and adopt Bill C-13 without considering Quebec's objectives.

I think this is entirely unacceptable to those of us who want to represent Quebec's interests. I thought a number of Conservative members who represent this government would rise this afternoon, but I have neither seen nor heard them.